

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 OPR-02
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/042 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-S:R.S.PACE:MEM

APPROVED BY S/S:F.WISNER

ARA:F.MCNEIL

WH:P.WISE

NSC:R.INDERFURTH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 060660

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: SCHEDULE

FOR AMBASSADOR

1. WE HAVE SEEN YOUR REVISED SCHEDULE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S CARACAS STOP. IT RAISES SEVERAL QUESTIONS. WITH YOUR VIEWS IN MIND, WE HAVE DEVELOPED AN ALTERNATIVE SCHEDULE WHICH MEETS MOST OF THE VENEZUELAN'S DESIRES. PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR COMMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. SPEECH TO CONGRESS: WE DO NOT SEE HOW THE SPEECH TO CONGRESS CAN TAKE PLACE ON DAY TWO OF THE SCHEDULE, GIVEN THE TIMES INDICATED IN REFTEL. A SPEECH AT 9:40 A.M., PRIOR TO AN 11:00A.M. AIRPORT DEPARTURE, WILL SIMPLY NOT
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ALLOW ENOUGH TIME FOR THE PRESS TO FILE STORIES PRIOR TO THE MOVE TO THE AIRPORT. THE TIMING PLUS LOGISTICAL REQUIREMENTS CAUSE US TO PREFER THE ORIGINAL PLAN FOR A SPEECH ON DAY ONE. WE CANNOT LEAVE LATER THAN 11:00 A.M.

3. WHILE WE APPRECIATE PRESIDENT PEREZ'S INVITATION TO SPEAK BEFORE THE MINISTERIAL MEETING AT SELA AND WE SHARE

HIS VIEW THAT SELA IS A POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT REGIONAL ORGANIZATION, PLEASE DECLINE THE INVITATION. THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE IS SO TIGHT IN CARACAS THAT WE BELIEVE THAT A SECOND ADDRESS COULD ONLY DIMINISH THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SPEECH BEFORE THE CONGRESS. MOREOVER, THE PRESIDENT WOULD PREFER HAVING A SECOND MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ AND ALSO THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PRESS COMMENTS. YOU MAY WISH TO TELL PEREZ THAT WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND THIS THEME WILL BE EMPHASIZED IN THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

4. THE FOLLOWING IS OUR REVISED SCHEDULE:

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

0800 DEPART ANDREWS
1315 ARRIVE CARACAS
1405 DEPART AIRPORT
1430 ARRIVE PANTHEON
1450 DEPART TO MIRAFLORES PALACE
1500 ARRIVE MIRAFLORES
1505 BILATERAL BEGINS
1605 BILATERAL ENDS
1630 DEPART TO CONGRESS
1640 ARRIVE CONGRESS
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1700 SPEECH
1730 DEPART TO LA CASONA
1750 ARRIVE LA CASONA--FREE TIME
1915 DEPART TO DINNER
2230 RON

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

0830 BILATERAL BEGINS
0930 BILATERAL ENDS
0945 INFORMAL PRESS MEETING AT LA CASONA
1000 DEPART TO AIRPORT
1035 ARRIVE AIRPORT
1100 AIR FORCE ONE DEPARTS TO BRASILIA

5. TIMES INDICATED ON THE SCHEDULE SHOULD BE CHECKED BY EMBASSY TO CONFIRM DRIVING TIMES. WITH RESPECT TO THE INFORMAL PRESS MEETING AT LA CASONA, WE WISH TO DELAY ANNOUNCEMENT UNTIL AS LATE AS POSSIBLE; OUR PREFERENCE IS TO DELAY UNTIL THE NIGHT BEFORE. YOU WILL WANT TO DISCUSS THIS PRESS MEETING WITH THE PRE-ADVANCE TEAM BEFORE RAISING THE ISSUE WITH THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT.

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